



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HFA-305  
Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration  
College Park, MD

APR 29 2002

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Laurelee Blanchard  
Director of Communications  
Farm Animal Reform Movement  
10101 Ashburton Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

This is in response to your letter of November 2, 1999, regarding the labeling of "natural flavors." We regret the delay in responding.

In your letter you suggested that the Food and Drug Administration promulgate a new food labeling rule that will require food companies to either list every source in their "natural flavors" or at least identify when there is a meat, poultry, seafood, egg, or dairy product within the flavoring. Specifically, you expressed the belief that many consumers must avoid products that contain animal products, for reasons involving ethics, allergies, or religion. You stated that proper food labeling would allow consumers to make informed choices.

We thank you for your interest in this matter. We would like to point out that we have a petition (Docket # 99P-5106) from the Vegetarian Legal Action Network that requests us to amend the regulations to require manufacturers to disclose the sources of their natural flavorings, e.g., "natural flavor from beef, pork, poultry, fish, shellfish, eggs, dairy products, other animal sources, peanuts, treenuts, wheat, and soy." We will forward a copy of your letter to our Dockets Management Branch to be included with other letters responding to the petition. We will consider all comments before making a final decision.

Sincerely yours,

Loretta A. Carey  
Consumer Safety Officer  
Division of Standards  
and Dietary Supplements  
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling  
and Dietary Supplements  
Center for Food Safety  
and Applied Nutrition

99P-5106

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# FARM

## Farm Animal Reform Movement

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November 2, 1999

Jane E. Henney, M.D.  
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration  
Room 1471  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

We are writing to suggest that the FDA institute a new food-labeling rule that will require food companies to either list every source in their "natural flavors," or at least identify when there is a meat, poultry, seafood, egg, or dairy product within the flavoring.

Many consumers must avoid products that contain animal products, for reasons involving ethics, allergies, or religion. Even small amounts of animal ingredients can have a harmful effect. Proper food labeling will allow consumers to make informed choices.

Farm Animal Reform Movement is a national, non-profit public interest organization with more than 18,000 members. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Farm Animal Reform Movement

  
Laurelee Blanchard, Director of Communications